

Amendments to the specification:

At page 1, please replace the first paragraph at lines 4-7 with the following amended paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to liquid dispensing apparatus and in particular to liquid dispensing apparatus which are able to dispense small volumes of liquid.

At page 1, please replace the fourth paragraph at lines 26-33 with the following amended paragraph:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved apparatus and when viewed from a first aspect the invention provides a liquid dispensing apparatus comprising a liquid reservoir, an outlet port and driving means for forcing liquid through said outlet port, said driving means comprising means for generating a pulse of gas which impinges upon liquid in the reservoir so as to force liquid through the outlet port.

At page 2, after line 16, please insert the following new paragraphs:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic view of a cassette of cartridges and liquid dispensing apparatus in accordance with the invention.

Figure 2 is a cross-section through a cartridge in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention.

At page 2, please replace the paragraph at lines 17-21 with the following amended paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one preferred arrangement in accordance with the invention, the outlet port is an integral part of the apparatus. In a particularly preferred embodiment one or both of the outlet

port and the liquid reservoir are moulded from a suitable plastics material, thereby allowing them to be made disposable. More preferably the outlet port and liquid reservoir are both moulded from suitable plastics, most preferably integrally with each other, to form a cartridge. Alternatively such a cartridge could be made from one or more other suitable materials such as silica or stainless steel.

At page 9, please replace the paragraph at lines 14-16 with the following amended paragraph:

Certain preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings. [in which:-]

At page 9, please delete the paragraph at lines 17-19.

At page 9, please delete the paragraph at lines 20-21.

At pages 10-11, please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 34, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Mounted in the lid 3 is an array of punching cannulae 28, one for each of the cartridges 2. These cannulae 28 have sharp tips and so as the lid 3 is hinged downwardly onto the cassette 1 in the chamber 20, the cannulae 28 pierce the foil seal ~~28~~ 16. The other ends of the cannulae are each connected by means of a pipe 26 to a source of pressurised gas for a predetermined time to produce a pulse of gas. The pressurised gas is generated by a compressor type EC Genius/M 202 2305 EU.SV.C which is commercially available from Fini, Zola, Predosa, Bo – Italy.

After the claims, please insert the attached separate sheet containing the abstract.